

The John Hopper House
249 Polifly Road
Hackensack, Bergen County, New Jersey

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, A.I.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

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The John Hopper House
249 Polifly Road
Hackensack, Bergen County, New Jersey

Owner: Mrs. Ida Hopper
New York City

Date of Erection: 1816-1818

Architect:

Builder: John Hopper

Present Condition: Fair

Number of Stories: Main house two and one-half;
wing two

Materials of Construction: Foundation - sandstone

Exterior walls - brown
sandstone

Interior walls - plaster
on lath

Roof - gambrel on main
section; pitch on wing

Historical Data:

The Hopper family is supposed to be of French descent. They went from France to Holland during the Huguenot persecution. The first Hopper, Andrew, came to America from Amsterdam as early as 1663 and settled in New Amsterdam. One of Andrew's children, William, went to Hackensack in 1686. He

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was followed by his two brothers Hendrick and Matthew the next year. Hendrick and Matthew purchased two farms extending from the Hackensack River to Saddle River, each built and settled on his farm.

The house of the survey was apparently built upon the farm of Hendrick, for we find that in 1770 it was in the possession of Garret, the fifth son of Hendrick. We know that the farm was inherited by Jacob. However, the records are incomplete until we discovered the farm in the possession of John Hopper who built the present house.

The first house on the Hopper farm stood on the opposite side of the road; it was a brown sandstone structure, for we know in the building of the south wing some of the stones from the first Hopper House were used. This wing was for a long time the slaves' quarters.

The new house was built by John and his wife, Maria Terhune, in 1816-1818. It was built largely by slaves, as were many of the earlier houses, working under expert builders who were engaged for the construction.

The exterior is exceptional, especially the front which is built of dressed reddish brown sandstone laid up in Flemish bond. The house shows Georgian influence in its ornamental features. There is a full length hall with two large front rooms with hand carved mantels of classic designs. However, these rooms show the influence of the nineties since ornamental arch doorways have been installed with floral decorations. These mar the simplicity of the house.

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